



# SAFETY MESSAGE



Personal Safety is our #1 priority

## **Pesky Critters,** Compiled by USDA-APHIS-CCEP

<b><u>Ticks:</u></b>  <b>Safety Tips</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuck pant legs into your socks and your shirt into your pants.</li><li>• Wear closed shoes and light colored clothing to spot ticks easily.</li><li>• Inspect clothes and exposed skin frequently.</li><li>• Do not sit on ground or on logs in bushy areas.</li><li>• Use insect repellent containing DEET (Diethyl-meta-toluamide).</li><li>• Keep long hair tied back.</li></ul> <b>Removal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a pair of pointed precision tweezers and grasp tick as close to skin as possible (do not grasp body).</li><li>• With slow motion, pull steadily outward; do not twist the tick.</li><li>• Do not apply petroleum jelly, alcohol, a match or other irritants to tick.</li><li>• Clean wound with disinfectant and monitor wound for rash symptoms.</li><li>• If rash occurs, see physician.</li></ul>	<b><u>Bees and Wasps:</u></b>  <b>Safety Tips</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your eyes peeled for nests, hives, and swarms.</li><li>• Do not disturb nests, hives, and swarms.</li><li>• Cover exposed skin if possible.</li><li>• Watch under leaves and other locations where bees and wasps may be hiding.</li><li>• Avoid them altogether when possible.</li></ul> <b>Treatment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove stingers by scraping skin with a piece of hard plastic such as a credit card, or use tweezers to pull them out.</li><li>• Wash the area with soap and water.</li><li>• Apply an ice pack.</li><li>• Use sting-swab to help relieve discomfort and pain (in first-aid kit).</li><li>• If you have difficulty breathing or coughing, this could be an allergic reaction. Call 911 immediately!</li></ul>
<b><u>Mosquitoes:</u></b>  <b>Safety Tips</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wear light colored clothes, long-sleeved shirts and pants.</li><li>• Use insect repellent containing DEET (Diethyl-meta-toluamide).</li><li>• Eliminate sources of standing water (breeding area for mosquitoes).</li><li>• Stay inside when possible (not instead of working).</li><li>• Avoid outdoors at dawn and dusk (active times for mosquitoes).</li></ul> <b>Bites</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mosquitoes' saliva contains anti-coagulating agents.</li><li>• May carry Encephalitis, Malaria, West Nile Virus.</li><li>• Treat with Calamine lotion or anti-itch medication (in first-aid kits).</li></ul>	<b><u>Fire Ants</u></b>  <b>Safety Tips</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watch for mounds in groves and avoid disturbing them.</li><li>• They usually inflict bites as groups.</li><li>• Tuck pants into socks and check for presence of ants occasionally.</li></ul> <b>Treatment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove ants from skin.</li><li>• Apply cold compress to relieve pain and swelling.</li><li>• Wash affected area with soap and water and leave blister intact.</li><li>• Use sting-swab to help discomfort and pain (in first-aid kit).</li><li>• People who are allergic to ants should seek medical attention immediately.</li></ul>